

2011 Peer Support Reception

Feedback on Washington's Peer Support Program

The Peer Support Program hosted its second annual "Peer Support Reception" at the 2011 Washington State Behavioral Healthcare Conference. This event honored the excellent work being done across the state by certified peer counselors, provided the opportunity for certified peer counselors and their supporters to come together and network. The reception also created the chance for people to offer feedback on the Peer Support Program. Below is the feedback provided at the reception.

What topics/areas of continuing education would be helpful to you?

- Boundary/ethics, de-escalation techniques/crisis intervention, assessment topics, self-care options
- Peer employment/volunteer opportunities outside the mental health field
- Support Groups
- Anything on addiction education would be very helpful
- Anything to deal with education and substance abuse
- Mental health education

Is there any content you believe should be included in the 40-hour certified peer counselor training that isn't currently?

- Assessing consumer's emotions
- Relationships/sexuality
- More interaction from consumers
- Anything on addiction
- How grief and death can effect individuals
- More education

What additional supports would help Peer Support to thrive in your area?

- Quarterly Round Table meetings to network and support each other
- Job opportunities
- More referrals for a "new" self help support group in South Park Community Center, 8319 8th Ave. S. Seattle, WA
- More trainings in Clark County

- More trainings in Clark County because it is hard for consumers and peer to get transportation
- A new treatment center

Do you have any other thoughts to share?

- I love my job but am worried about burn-out- we need more self-care options.
- Peer advocacy, lobbying at all government levels
- I'm having a wonderful time and looking forward to more events like this in the future and any info on how to get a gathering like this in Clark County.
- The keynote speaker and how the music led him to his career and how spirituality can empower a person.
- Maybe more?